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THE
CHARACTER

OF

Her late MAJESTY

Queen Caroline.

The THIRD EDITION.

Price One Shilling.

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AN
ESSAY
Towards the *Biography* vol 5
CHARACTER

OF
Her late MAJESTY
CAROLINE, *K*
Queen-Confort of Great Britain, &c.

The THIRD EDITION.



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A N
E S S A Y
Towards the
C H A R A C T E R
O F
Her late M A J E S T Y.

TH E following pages contain only what the Title professes, an *attempt* to give the Public some Idea of the Virtues and Perfections of the late Q U E E N.

What is commonly said of the human Countenance, is also true of the human Mind; that there are not two throughout the whole compass of life which are exactly alike, and do not differ in one article or other: And therefore CHARACTERS, like Pictures, should be drawn in such a manner, that the Persons intended to be represented by them may be known at sight, by all their acquaintance; which can only be done by strongly marking those peculiarities of Genius, Disposition,

or Temper, whereby every one is distinguished from the rest of the Species. And it may truly be affirmed that Her late MAJESTY, excelled in many particulars, any one of which would have done credit to the times in which she lived.

THE virtues and great qualities of Princes are generally celebrated in their life-time, with all the advantages that wit and learning can give them. Nothing that is commendable will be lost in such hands; and it is well, if what is really valuable, be not rendered doubtful by flattery or fiction. For Persons of indigent fortunes or corrupt minds, seldom lose any opportunities of making their court to those who have the distribution of honor, wealth or power. And yet in the present instance it is very remarkable, that many of the Queen's peculiar Excellencies have never been mentioned, either by those, who list every good quality in the service of their patron; or those who knew her well, and meant only to give all due honor to her Virtues.

FEW Persons are so uniform in their conduct, or so superior in their abilities or virtues,

as to allow of too near a Scrutiny either into the one, or the other; which is the reason why every one should be viewed at some particular distance. But it appears to the admiration even of those who saw her at all times and seasons, and in every hour when the Mind is most unguarded, that her Majesty was always in a very eminent manner the same great and good Person.

THE Characters of Princes are for many reasons commonly mounted up far above their deserts; and the reports that are made from distant places swell their virtues still more; which, contrary to the nature of visible Objects, generally dwindle as we approach towards them; and as often shrink to nothing, when we have an opportunity of coming near enough for an impartial examination: Whereas here we meet with the reverse; for the virtues of this Princess were many of them concealed with as much art, as if they had been her reproach; and some of those things which have been imputed to her for failings and blemishes, are now the confessed beauties and ornaments of her Character.

And it must also be considered, that some of her most amiable qualities cannot be freely described nor represented in their proper light for want of such circumstances and facts as belonged to her private life, and are too nearly intermixed with the concerns of that SACRED PERSON, whose history we hope is reserved to a very distant period of time.

I am very sensible that more injury cannot be done to the Memory of this Great Personage, than by tarnishing the praises that are due to her, with any appearance of flattery. For which reason I shall be careful not to mention a single circumstance, but what can be attested by a number of Persons of undoubted honor and integrity. And as I can only pretend to draw the outlines of a character (which Decency would have forbidden, if the subject of it had been living) I hope it will be a means of encouraging some able pen to raise a Monument to her glory, which may easily vie with all the boasted names of Antiquity ; a Monument that will survive the injuries of time, and grow stronger with years, when the infamous libels of the present age, with

with all their mean and wicked Authors shall have perished together.

HER MAJESTY was great by Birth and Education as well as natural and acquired abilities; for she was of the House of *Brandenburg*, one of the most ancient and illustrious Families in *Europe*; and received her education from the late Queen of *Prussia*, to whom she was indebted for many of those advantages, which opened the way to the honors and distinctions that were afterwards paid to her singular Merit.

SHE had a ready and quick Apprehension, a lively and strong Imagination, with a large compass of thought. She excelled in an uncommon turn for conversation, assisted by a natural vivacity, and very peculiar talents for mirth and humour; and by her skill in several languages, had an art of compounding words and phrases, that were more expressive of her ideas than any other; and a great proof of the power and force of her genius. She loved a repartee; was happy in making one herself, and bearing it from others. And as this talent
was

was rendered not only inoffensive, but amiable by the greatest good nature and cheerfulness of disposition, which are somewhere very properly stiled *the ornaments of virtue*; she was, (without respect to the dignity of her rank) the life of every company, and the delight of all that had the honor to approach her.

HER Memory was very good, and of singular use in her high station; for she was exact in her knowledge of the Characters and Merits of Persons; and well skilled in the history and genealogies of the considerable families, in this, and most other Countries in *Europe*.

SHE had so penetrating and searching a genius, and so true an understanding of the nature and manners of the world, that she seldom failed of making a true judgment of the characters of those who came within the reach of her observation; which enabled her to make the proper use of them, according to their different tempers, dispositions, or studies.

And tho' it generally requires much care and resolution to govern any extraordinary degree

degree of life and spirit, she had no pains of that sort to overcome ; having been blessed with a natural serenity, and calmness of mind that was inexpressible, and is hardly ever accompanied with such an uncommon share of vivacity ; but in Her had so much the ascendant, that it was invariably the same, and remained with her to the last moment of life. So that she had reason to express her thankfulness to G O D, as she often did, that He had given her a temper which enabled her to support every difficulty. And it is indeed a disposition of mind more immediately useful to Princes, not only on their own account, but as it contributes to the ease and happiness of all that have the honor of being in their Service.

This Gentleness of nature shewed itself in every instance both in publick and private, and inclined her to study all the ways of making herself agreeable, and of suiting her discourse to the Persons with whom she conversed. But tho' her general manner of receiving Company in publick was very obliging and gracious, she knew how to distinguish persons of real merit, and had an effectual way of making those, for whom

whom she had any particular regard, fully sensible of the distinction she made.

And I am sure I speak the sense of every one that was admitted to any degree of confidence with her, in saying that what appeared to some, to be mere art, and the address of a court, flowed from her natural humour; and that there never was a person of a more undisguised temper in these articles, or that was more of a-piece through all the varieties of life. For the same softness of behaviour and the same command of herself, that appeared in the Drawing-room, went along with her into her private apartments, and gladden'd every body that was about her down to the meanest attendant. It not only accompanied her in the gay and chearful seasons of life, but was equally strong in the most trying circumstances, and even in the hour of death itself.

THIS naturally leads us to a view of what may be called her *Cardinal* virtues; her comprehensive benevolence, and compassionate regard to the wants and distresses of human Life; which are virtues and dignities of
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the mind, that (my Lord *Bacon* observes) *admit no excess but Error*. And if the greatest happiness any person is capable of, consists in a consciousness of the most extensive goodwill to mankind, nobody could have a better title to it. For the warmth and goodness of her Heart irresistibly broke out on every occasion, and on subjects of every kind; and may have carried her on, to endeavour to serve Others, when it was not always practicable; an inconvenience, which is the common effect of such excellencies in a Character.

SHE took infinite pleasure in amusing herself with the sportings and innocence of young children; and always appeared to be in her proper element, when she was giving any proofs of an humane and tender disposition, which she extended with the same openness of heart to all, whose circumstances required it. For Her natural feelings for the pains and distresses of others are not to be described. They were so strong, that she became a fellow-sufferer with them, and made their cases so much her own, that it is altogether unaccountable, how one that was removed so far out of the reach of the common wants of life, should be

more warmly touched with a compassionate sense of them, than is to be met with amongst persons from whose situation and circumstances we naturally expect the deepest impressions of this Sort. — A Lesson of the greatest use to mankind, if persons of the first distinction would learn from hence; that when they harden their hearts, and shut their eyes and ears to the complaints of the distressed, they lose the most exquisite pleasure human nature is capable of enjoying, and make their superiority, what we too often find it, a snare to themselves, and a grievance to the rest of the world.

HER Charities, the natural consequence of such virtues, were limited only by her Revenue. And of all the loads of infamy which the press has produced in the present age, there is none more worthy of the abhorrence of a good Mind, than the insinuations which have been thrown out against this part of her character; because they were calculated to destroy her good name, and lessen that just influence which these virtues naturally gave her, over the wise and reputable part of mankind.

Her

Her Charities were more numerous, and larger in proportion, than most of those that have been so extravagantly celebrated through the world. And all her income, over and above the necessary expences of her family, was laid out in employing great numbers of the poorer sort in works of very different kinds ; or in relieving the various distresses of life. Her bounty was given in the most impartial manner to persons of different sects and parties ; but her principal regards were paid to such as were in the greatest distress ; to those who were under a disability of receiving a maintenance from the public ; as well as to the widows and children of clergymen or officers, whose families by their deaths, were reduced at once from a state of plenty to a want of the common necessaries of life.

To these and every other kind of indigence, that had the least plea of merit joined to it, her hand and her heart were always open. For she knew of no value in money, but what arises from the present use of it ; and was never more obliged to any one than for a noble occasion of exerting her liberality. And when she was applied to by persons nearly concerned

in behalf of their friends, she has entered into all their grief with the greatest generosity of mind; answered their requests with an Air of satisfaction and gladness; and always endeavoured to convince them, that they could not recommend themselves more to her esteem, than by giving such proofs of a compassionate and affectionate nature.

She avoided all appearance of shew and ostentation so much, that many persons who subsisted by her Bounty were wholly ignorant of their Benefactor; and she was so liberal in her charities that her publick and private lists with the occasional sums expended on the same account, amounted to near a *fifth* part of her whole Income.

THESE moral Perfections were seated in a clear and undisturbed mind, not ruffled by passions, nor sowed by disappointments; by which means she appeared to enjoy the greater part of her life with a relish unknown to narrow spirits; who have no taste of rational pleasures; and lose the enjoyment of what they possess, in pursuit of what they have not.

AND

AND now if we take a view of this excellent Person in the other parts of her conduct, we shall find her still Greater in herself than in the outward distinctions of life.

FOR she had a strength of understanding and presence of mind, which accompanied her in all her actions; and secured her against being surprized with sudden events, or behaving unequally under them; of both which she has given many unexampled proofs.

The same dignity of Soul enabled her to overlook injuries, and to bear up with patience and resolution against undeserved calumny or reproach. But she always coveted the esteem of worthy persons; and whenever she had been misrepresented by such, used to "wish that they had known her better." For she frequently expressed herself not only with regard and kindness, but a degree of reverence for characters of distinguished virtue and goodness. And as to the ill treatment she met with from others of a contrary stamp, she received it for the most part with the greatest indifference, and endured it as the necessary tax on
her

her station and merit, referring herself and her cause with silent and humble confidence to that Being whom she made her *refuge and strength*.

In matters of the lightest moment she had so entire a command of herself, that whenever she pleased, she seemed to enjoy even trifles, as if she was quite unbent, and had nothing else to attend ; and in every circumstance of behaviour that came under the notice of others, she gave herself up to it ; and appeared in it with the same readiness, as if it was the only thing in which she excelled.

And it were to be wished for *our* sakes, she had not carried this power over her own conduct so far in other particulars. For she seldom attended to any warnings of an approaching illness ; but either for fear of alarming *HIM* whose happiness was bound up in hers ; or from too much dependance on her constitution ; would appear in public with the same outward cheerfulness, when she was in excess of pain and anguish, as if she had been perfectly at her ease : Which, joined to a peculiar delicacy she had in the frame of her mind, too frequently

frequently endangered a life of inestimable value to the World.

THIS sovereign command of her thoughts, words and actions, had its foundation in an heart always devoted to great and noble designs. Her Genius tower'd over all. For by many circumstances it is evident that she had a capacity for executing grand and princely schemes. And when His Majesty's Commands required an application of these high qualities to the government of a Kingdom, she joined to them a skill and prudence that would have adorned the character of the most able and experienced statesman.

THE extensive knowledge she had in matters of a philosophical nature, the time she spent in reading and conversing about them, and the regard she manifested for the memory of those eminent writers that had brought new light into these subjects, have given great credit to those studies. And she has been so justly celebrated by some of the most admired names of our country on this account, that it will be in vain to attempt to give the publick any higher impressions of this part of her character

rafter with which they are fo well acquainted; and which will convey her name down to pofterity with glory and honor.

The ufe ſhe made of theſe advantages was to enable her to diſcharge the duties of an high ſtation, like One that was to give an account of her actions to God; and ſhe conſidered the more envied circumſtances of life, with an indifference that made it perfectly eaſy to her to part with them. Theſe things which filled the mouths of the philoſophers, poſſeſſed the heart of this excellent Princeſs. She engrafted them into her life, and contracted ſuch a diſlike to all uſeleſs reading, that ſhe began to be weary even of hiſtorical pieces from the uncertainty and partiality with which they are commonly written; and could hardly prevail with herſelf of late to ſpend her thoughts on any ſubjects, but ſuch as were of the more ſerious and religious turn. For having had large experience of all the joys that can be had from the utmoſt points of honor, eſteem and power, and whatever elſe is moſt valued by the world, ſhe was capable of determining upon them with great judiciousneſs; and did accordingly make ſuch reflections as ſufficiently

sufficiently shewed her sense of what she called the *mere nothingness of human life*.

THE many virtues and graces of her life prove her Religion to have been what an Apostle styles, *pure and undefiled before God, by visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keeping herself unspotted from the world*. And in all her words and actions, she declared herself to be on the most reasonable conviction, a sincere Christian, a zealous Protestant, a real Friend to the Church of *England*, and a constant Protector of the rights of mankind, in opposition to tyranny of every sort.

She was well acquainted with the best arguments to support her principles, and gave an early proof of her steady adherence to the Protestant cause, by refusing to enter into a treaty of marriage with the present Emperor, when he was King of *Spain*: A circumstance which is so well known amongst us, that I need only remark upon it, She was reserved for our happiness to be the ornament of a Country, where religion and government receive their best support from liberty and truth.

D

BUT

BUT of all the particulars of her Life, there was none more extraordinary than her method of dividing time, which enabled her to go through such a variety of affairs, not only without hurry and confusion, but with more ease and readiness than can easily be conceived by those, who had not the proper opportunities of making the observation.

And indeed this will appear incredible to such as are unacquainted with the art of applying every minute to its proper uses; for generally speaking, they find least leisure for business, whose time lies heavy on their hands. The order and method which the diligent and active are obliged to observe in the conduct of their affairs, bring things into a narrower compass, and do in effect carry with them the blessings of a long life, by enabling men to live as much again in the same space of time. And it seems to be one of the curses of affluence and fortune to make men idle and useless; that they should have a greater stock of time in hand than they know how to employ; So that they may be said to shorten their lives, and not *live out half their days*. A Reflection
that

that is as full of honor to this great Queen, as it is of shame and reproach to an age that has made but little use of so glorious an example!

She was frequently engaged in reading such Books as are rarely attempted but by persons of much leisure and retirement, whose thoughts are not taken up with any of the cares or sollicitudes of the world. And we are assured, by a great authority, that her knowledge was very *particular and uncommon, even in matters of the nicest, and most abstract Speculation*. She acquainted herself with every valuable book that was published; she granted Audiences to all that had any wants to supply: At certain hours she gave herself up to the amusements of a court; but was so totally void of all concern for the ornaments of dress, that it could hardly be said to take up any portion of her time.

She conversed in private with persons of all the different turns of genius in the whole compass of arts and sciences; and with a few whom she honored with a more particular regard, she entered into all the freedoms of private and familiar life; and shewed that she could let herself down from her dignity, as if

she had never possessed it ; and could resume it again, as if she had never parted with it. And tho' the more publick parts of her character will make the greatest figure in history ; they who were best acquainted with her know, that there were more charms in her *private* conversation, and more merit in any one of the silent virtues of her domestic life, than in all those that are the common subjects of admiration.

She made these various employments of immediate use in the education of her children, who were almost always under her eye ; for they lived with her, and about her a great part of the day ; and received the benefit of every circumstance that arose in conversation or otherwise, which could be applied to their improvement and happiness. — For She was their instructor, their friend and companion, as well as their most indulgent parent.

She directed their behaviour, formed their manners, taught them how to rule their passions, and governed them with so much wisdom, as to be entirely beloved by them : For their greatest delight was in her company, and
they

they dreaded nothing so much as her displeasure.

Her heart was so rightly turned to this great duty of nature, that she could temper her reproofs at one and the same time with a mixture of severity and sweetness, which gave her an absolute and irresistible authority over them. And she highly deserved their most dutiful regards; because she spared no pains for their instruction, and gave herself up to every thought that could be turned to their advantage.

What a misfortune is it to our country that so illustrious an example, which has been publicly known, and universally admired amongst us for above twenty years together, should not have had weight enough to bring an employment of the greatest importance into more fashion and credit; an employment in itself the most honourable, and in its consequences the most useful of any in the world. And it is impossible not to reflect, with the utmost degree of grief and indignation, on the melancholy state of such times, when Parents of rank are grown so degenerate and have so little regard to their own honor, or the happiness of
their

their children, as by leaving them in the hands of their Servants, to suffer them to receive their earliest impressions from those, who are commonly taken from the dregs of the people.

BUT the tenderness which the Queen had for her royal offspring, together with all other regards, were swallowed up in her *conjugal* virtues, and her devotion to the KING. Her soul was entirely possessed with her duty, affection and attachment to him; and such was her whole conduct, that it was hardly possible to distinguish at any time, whether she was consulting his inclinations or her own. She declared herself “ under the highest obligations to Him for having made her the “ happiest woman in the world; and that “ though her children were entirely dear, they “ were not as a grain of sand to her, in comparison of Him.” For all her thoughts were bent on promoting his satisfactions, and easing the cares of his royal Breast; all her actions were directed with a view to His honor; and all her hours were given up to his disposal.

M O S T

MOST of the distinguished characters in history, owe their ornaments and graces to a thirst of *Fame*, which was the probable reason of their most celebrated actions; but when the virtues of this Princess come to be seen in their true light, she will be found to have been so void of this passion, that on the contrary, she sacrificed all her interest with the Great, and her reputation with the Many, to her duty to the King, her love to her children, and her regard to the public welfare.

She neglected appearances so much, that she used frequently to say “that her true character would never be known till after her death.” She preferred the inward approbation of her own mind to the applause of the world; and valued things as they appeared to her in the eye of reason, and not according to the rate that was set upon them by others.

She was very fond of what one of her favourite Authors says on this subject, * “that a thirst after glory is founded in Ambition and Vanity; that to discerning men, Fame itself is a mere dream, a stupid delusion, and

* Wollaston's *Religion of Nature*, &c.

“ but

“ but the next remove from nothing ; that it
 “ is bestowed on men thro’ ignorance, par-
 “ tiality or selfish views, on account of such
 “ things as would be a disgrace to savages,
 “ — or such as at best have no real merit in
 “ them: That this boasted immortality amounts
 “ to no more, than that somebody conquered
 “ somebody, because the perpetuating of the
 “ bare name can be nothing to the man to
 “ whom it once belonged.”

What confirmed her in these reflections, was
 that this very Fame (as poor a business as it is)
 is often grounded either on false facts or mis-
 taken ones ; which in her own case she pro-
 fessed to have frequently experienced, by find-
 ing herself “ extolled and flattered at some times
 “ for actions, that were either of an indifferent
 “ nature, or disliked by herself ; and censured
 “ at others for the most commendable and dis-
 “ interested parts of her conduct.” So that when
 it is considered that her very neglect of Fame
 arose from a nobleness of heart, and a disre-
 gard to the censure of those who see only the
 outside of things ; and that she was willing to
 wait for her reward from that Being *who seeth*
in secret ; her character will be the more illus-
 trious

trious, on account of those very circumstances which seem to have shaded it; and She will appear to all Posterity to have been one of the first persons of the Country, Age, and Station, in which she lived.

IF any additional light can be wanting to give us a clearer idea of this incomparable Princess, it will be abundantly supplied from her inimitable behaviour and conduct throughout the last melancholy scene of her life, every article of which deserves to be recorded in indelible characters. As the whole passed under the eye and observation of many persons, it is to be hoped they will not suffer the least circumstance of all the wisdom, and piety, and greatness of soul, which she manifested in that season, to be forgotten. And it must be an inexpressible satisfaction to those who honored her when living, and lament her dead, to have so many undoubted evidences of the greatest virtue, as are more than enough to stifle the feeble and ungenerous attacks of party-rage; which, like the Inquisition, puts every virtue to the question, and racks and tortures the most amiable qualities of the human Mind.

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WHEREVER there has been room for it, the characters of men have always been formed from their behaviour at the time of their death, when it is justly presumed every disguise is laid aside: Upon this bottom, the zealots of many religious professions have endeavoured to secure to themselves the credit of a dying adversary, whose whole life perhaps was one continued warfare against them.

And here we have an instance of an happy combination of all that is great and good without the common mixture of failings and infirmities, uniformly worked up in life and death to a greater pitch of perfection than we have any account of in all the volumes of Antiquity.

A memorable action or saying, which might be the work only of one hour's wisdom or steadiness, is handed down to all posterity as worthy of having the *whole* character denominated from it; whereas here we behold a Great QUEEN racked with the extremity of pain and misery, with very little intermission for twelve days and nights; and enduring it not only with patience and submission, but almost without a groan; all along maintaining

taining thro' a series of suffering, her temper ; her virtue ; her real submission to the ways of Providence ; her dignity and greatness of Soul. ———

THROUGH the whole course of her illness she gave proofs of her usual chearfulness ; and tried to support the spirits of those that were about her, by exerting it to the last. She did not consider death in any other light, than as if it had been a common occurrence, in which there was nothing that ought to give any disturbance to one that had fixed her hope on another life.

And from the general turn of her conversation a few months past ; as well as some remarkable expressions that she used ; and an uncommon thoughtfulness, which, as it were, stole upon her countenance more frequently of late ; it looked, as if she apprehended that her life would not be of long continuance ; which evidently grew to be her fixed opinion as her Illness increased upon her. She did not manifest the least desire of life from the beginning of her confinement ; but when she observed the anxiety of her friends, she resolved to do that for their sakes, which she could not

be prevailed on to do for her own ; and said,
 “ she thought it was worth while to endea-
 “ vour to preserve a life, that she found was
 “ so dear to his Majesty, and his Royal Issue.”

ON the second day of her illness she was observed to shed some tears ; occasioned either by lowness of spirits, or drawn from her by the tenderness of those that were dearest to her : But she soon recovered her usual firmness, and maintained the dignity of her mind, without any emotion, or interruption, to the hour of her death.

I believe it may be affirmed, that none of the Physicians or Surgeons, or other attendants upon her, ever beheld such an example of patience, and fortitude of mind, and of entire submission to the will of God. And in one of the painful operations she underwent, being apprehensive that she had expressed her self with a little uneasiness, though it was hardly observed, she said with concern that “ she feared she had shewed more impatience, than she ought to have done.”

In all this melancholy scene She behaved with the same civility and courtesousness at all times to every one that was about her ; which
 was

was a circumstance of greatness, that one of the Physicians observed, he had never met with in the whole course of his practice. She was continually manifesting the goodness of her heart, and expressing her thankful and considerate sense of the laborious watchings and fatigues of her attendants; which she did with the most proper and distinguishing regards to each of them.

And it ought to be remembred, that this obliging manner of behaviour was not of that sort, which mechanically flows from constitution or habit; but was suited so exactly to the circumstances both of the persons to whom she spake, and the opportunities she took for the purpose, as shewed she was absolute mistress of herself; and could judge of all proprieties as much in her last hours, as others can when their heads and hearts are most at ease.

Her calmness and quietness of spirit (the milder beauties of her character) remained the same thro' all the changes of her distemper; and enabled her with the greatest constancy of mind, and composure of behaviour to discharge the duties that were nearest her heart; whilst
every

every one around her was transported with agonies of grief and confusion.

Not one repining word, not one unguarded expression came from her ; but on the contrary, She was full of patience and resignation in the midst of her pains, and as full of gratitude for the least abatement of them. She considered herself as under more eminent obligations to her maker than the rest of the world ; and was always recounting to herself and others, the many providences she had received during her whole life.

She spent the tedious hours of her sickness in considering what remained for her to do, that might testify the strength of her affection to the King, or might best discharge the last duties of a Christian, a Mother, a Mistress, or a Friend: Of all which the * Great Prelate (who assisted Her in religious offices, and prayed with Her twice a Day for some time before she died) received the fullest satisfaction ; as he had often done before, in many distinct conversations with Her on these, and other important points.

* His Grace the Archbishop of *Canterbury*.

Her

Her thoughts were frequently lifted up to Heaven; and she poured out her soul several times in a day, in the most reasonable, devout, and affecting terms. Her Prayers were generally pronounced in an audible manner, and shewed such clearness of understanding, such strength of mind and such judiciousness in her choice of matter, that she seemed to be wholly undisturbed with her pains, as if she had been quite at ease, and delivered from the fetters of the body. So that she made her very sufferings instructive to all about her, who were so deeply affected with them, that it is probable Time itself will not be able to blot out the mournful remembrance of them. She prayed in a distinct manner for the King, for All her children, and for the Publick; and suited her petitions to their different circumstances, and the respective relations she stood in to them.

She took a separate and solemn leave of HIS MAJESTY and her family more frequently than human nature could well go through with; which was occasioned by the various turns of hope and fear, that prevailed in their minds at different times. And the dignity

nity and ease with which she behaved; the innocence with which she spoke; the proper and affectionate advice she gave to her children; the earnest manner in which she recommended unanimity, and mutual affection to them; the useful lessons she delivered to every one about her; and the inexpressible marks of her duty and tenderness for that Royal Person, to whom she owed the happiness and honors of her life, were so affecting and powerful; that it was no wonder, if They, who found themselves on the point of losing more blessings by her death, than they could hope to repair, should be overwhelmed with sorrow and concern.

And as if She was the Only One in the Royal Palace that had the command of herself, she had the resolution to avoid every occasion of repeating the mournful ceremonies of an eternal farewell, by declining to speak more than was necessary for the two last Days of her life.

AMIDST all the important concerns that possessed her Soul, nothing is more worthy of admiration, or a more infallible proof of the humane and beneficent turn of her mind, than
her

her last remembrances of every one for whom she had any regard ; which were so particular that there are reasons to think she did not forget one, but took some occasion or other, in the course of her illness, to speak of them all with proper kindness. She recommended her Servants in the most affecting and solemn manner to His Majesty's favour and protection ; and extended her concern down to the lowest of them, and was equally warm in her solicitude for their welfare ; recounting to him the faithfulness of their respective services, and omitting nothing which she thought could be of use to them. Some of them have had the honor of attending her above twenty years ; and it will not be improper in this place to observe, that as the Queen had all the virtues of private, as well as public life, no one in a great station ever enjoyed more of the advantages of it. For no Persons in private life ever thought themselves happier than she did, in the faithfulness, truth and honor, of some that have been admitted to the freedoms of her conversation, as well as others that were in her service.

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And they who had the happiness of being witnesses of the inimitable Manner in which she closed her life, will never forget the frequent declarations she made, when the hopes and fears of this world were at an end with her; namely, “ That she had made it the “ business of her life to discharge her duty to “ God and Man in the best manner she was “ able; that as she had no heavy burden upon her Conscience, she hoped God would “ pardon her infirmities, and accept of the sincerity of her endeavours, which were always “ intended to promote the King’s honor, and “ the prosperity of the Kingdom; that she “ was a hearty well-wisher to the Liberties of “ the Nation; that if she had been mistaken “ in any part of her conduct, it was from an “ error of her judgment, not her will; that “ she could not charge herself with a thought “ of having unjustly given an hour’s pain “ to any one person in the world; and that “ she had studied all the means that were in “ her power of contributing to the happiness “ of the Royal Family, and strengthening “ the

“ the common interest of all that wish well to
 “ the King’s Government.”

A little before she died, she said to a Physician, *How long can this last?* and on his answering, *Your Majesty will soon be eased of your pains;* she replied, *the sooner the better.* After this she repeated a prayer of her own composing, in which there was such a flow of natural eloquence as amazed the By-standers, and demonstrated the power and vigour of a great and good Mind,

BUT the last period of this melancholy scene is yet to come: For, when her speech began to falter, and she was thought expiring, she summoned all her strength, and all the powers of her departing spirit, to assist her for one glorious moment, that she might make her end to her immortal honor, in a manner worthy of a good christian, and worthy of her self. For this purpose she desired to be raised up in her bed, and fearing that nature would not hold out long enough without artificial supports, she called to have water thrown on her, and a little after desired it might be repeated; by which means having gathered up

some spirit, She, with the greatest composure and presence of mind, requested her weeping Royal Relations to “kneel down and pray for “Her”; which they immediately did. And, whilst they were reading some Prayers, as well as circumstances of such unutterable distress would permit; she said, *pray aloud that I may hear*; and after the *Lord's Prayer* was concluded, in which she joined as well as she could, she said *SO*; and (waving her hand) with the utmost tranquility lay down and gave up the ghost.

THUS died a Princess, who, if we consider all the circumstances of her station, abilities, temper and conduct, was undoubtedly the glory of our age, and an ornament to human nature itself. For if we view her in possession of every worldly honor; adorned with every amiable quality; placed in the eye of the whole world; and afterwards behold the same Person putting in practice all the philosophy of the severest moralists; instructing those that were about her in the most useful manner; uttering nothing that was unbecoming a wise and good Christian under the sharpest Sufferings,

ings, and bearing them with invincible patience and fortitude for many days together; wholly undismayed at the sight of death; and even meeting it with an air of satisfaction, tho' she was to be parted from those whom she most tenderly loved: — If all these circumstances be considered, we should rather be inclined to think that she was the Representative of some character, drawn for the admiration of mankind, than that any one could really be what she was.

And it will be no wonder if the whole of this amazing scene, of which I only pretend to give an imperfect sketch, should appear visionary to those who were at a distance from it; because *even* they who attended her through all the painful stages of her last illness, and were best acquainted with her Excellencies; cannot reflect on her continued Sufferings, and all her Behaviour under them, without the greatest degree of astonishment.

If we were to indulge our minds in giving way to such melancholy apprehensions as this subject would naturally suggest to us, there
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would be no end : For She was All we could wish for in every relation of life, and was removed from our hopes and expectations, when she was capable of doing the most good ; when her faculties were strong and vigorous, and by the course of nature might have continued so for a long term of years.

To Her indeed the *day of Death*, was *better than the day of one's birth*. For it carried Her beyond the *strife of tongues*, or the malicious strokes of envenomed pens. She had made her way through the press and crowd of life, and was now arrived at that critical point which pronounced her happy ; and rendred the Evening of her glorious day more illustrious than the Meridian of most of the celebrated characters in history. So that she has effectually secured herself an endless measure of Fame, though she never made it the object of her pursuits.

HER House was both the honor and the reproach of our Country. The affluence and state of great families commonly tend to cool and slacken their affections to each other, and
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make them industriously avoid all appearances, which may bring them to know themselves, or remind them of the misery or weakness of a mortal condition. For this reason they flee from the distress, sickness or death, even of their nearest relations. Whereas here we see a numerous Royal Family, formed by her conduct, and governed by her example, giving such proofs of the true greatness of their own minds, and of the strength of their affection to the best of Parents, as seemed to exceed the powers of nature.

They laid aside and forgot every mark of dignity and distinction, when One of the principal objects of their happiness called for their best offices. They watched with her in her whole illness; gave her all the medicines; attended her with unwearied diligence; performed every office for her; observed all the turns in her distemper with the utmost anxiety; entered into every circumstance, that could enable them to give her a moments ease; and, contrary to the manner of the world, paid their constant duty to her very *Remains*, till they were removed out of their Sight.

As this was not the glory of One only, but of All that were with her ; and All vied with each other in this amiable contention, as far as they were allowed to do it on account of their health and ability ; it may safely be affirmed, that no history can produce an instance of more piety in a whole family, or more honor paid to the virtues of a Parent. And the disorder, confusion and sickness, which their grief, and the fatigues they endured, have brought upon them, attended with circumstances of danger to Some, must for ever make them esteemed and honored by all, that have any feeling for such singular distresses ; or that can be touched with a due sense of such exquisite merit.

BUT what sums up her Character, is the royal testimony that is born to it by H I M, who for above *thirty* years together, admired her Virtues ; lived with her in the strictest ties of affection and friendship ; and now considers himself as deprived of one, that really divided the cares, and more than doubled the joys of his life.

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His heart swells with every tender image of her perfections, which are perpetually before his eyes. He takes every opportunity of recounting her virtues; and does it in a manner that shews his whole soul engaged in the contemplation of them. He considers how she would have acted in every circumstance that was within her Sphere; expresses a gracious regard for those whom she valued; and is disposed to every thing that can possibly do honor to her Memory.

For this purpose He has been pleased to continue the salaries of all the officers, and menial servants, who are not taken into his own family; and has commanded such a list as can be had, of her numerous Charities, to be laid before him; it being his Royal Intention that “ Nobody, as far as possible, should be a sufferer besides Himself.”

THESE shining circumstances are all crowned with the inexpressible fondness and affection of a FATHER, who manifests the utmost solicitude for the welfare of his children; and from the persuasion he is under of the irreparable loss, applies himself with great tender-

ness to discharge the duty of *both* Parents; recommending the Queen's example to them, and reminding them of all that she said, and did, and suffered for their honor and happiness.

AND if I was at liberty to go into more particulars, and describe the pains and anxiety of his Royal Breast, so visible in his whole conduct, whilst All that He loved, and valued was in danger; the distraction of thought; the oppression of heart; and the deluge of soft and tender passions, that broke in upon a mind, naturally fortified with the utmost degree of constancy and resolution; while He appeared himself to feel all the agonies of death, when the last glimmering of hope was gone: If it were possible for all this to be freely and fully described, it would be a stronger motive than any that has yet been urged, to engage the most affectionate wishes and prayers of his subjects, for the preservation of a PRINCE who has added to his confessed virtues of inflexible Probity, Justice, Honor and Truth, the most amiable proofs of his Humanity, Tenderness and Goodness of heart.

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THESE are virtues which used to lie concealed in the private corners of the world, and are hardly ever found among those who are in the highest points of light, and command the publick attention of Mankind; and therefore we must be lost to all shame, if we are wanting in our proper acknowledgments of these uncommon merits in a Royal Family; which do so much real credit to our Age and Country.

But it must be confessed to the honor of human nature, that the undissembled grief which has appeared in *all* ranks of persons on this most affecting occasion, evidently shews, that true and solid virtue will ever be too hard for all the differing humours, interests and factions of the world; and that the name and honor of a truly great and good Person, may fairly be entrusted to the faithful keeping of posterity.

And if the consciousness of her own innocence; the assurance of her being most beloved by those to whom she was most intimately known; and the universal testimony that was paid to her merit, could contribute any thing to her happiness in her last moments,

this excellent QUEEN had all the satisfactions a dying hour could give: For she saw a Great Prince most tenderly affected for her, and half expiring with her; attended by a numerous Iffue standing round her bed, and transported with all the excesses of grief and anxiety; — Her friends and servants lamenting their private loss, as well as that of the public; — the world abroad moved with general concern; — and even her enemies (whom God forgive) for once ashamed. —

I am perfectly aware of the deficiency of a character, that is made up only of such materials as are already very well known; but till more can be procured, I persuade my self it must be of use to place these we have, in such a light, that they may be seen at one view. And I thought some public homage was immediately due to the memory of an illustrious Princess, who has left behind her an example of so many great and uncommon Virtues both in the public and domestic walk of Life: And that it would also be a seasonable Opportunity of convincing All who are in high Stations, that nothing will pass for great or illustrious, but what

what has true merit in it; and that there is no Honor in any conduct, but what is founded on the laws of Religion and Virtue.

THE greatest and most deserving Characters cannot ordinarily be viewed in their true light, till All that have been personally concerned are dead, and the grounds of their respective partialities are buried with them. But as *this* Character wants no foreign aids, and depends on its own native strength, it has nothing to apprehend from the licentiousness of the times; though it must be a real concern to all reasonable minds, to observe the inhuman attempts that are made to blast the memory of One, whose NAME will live as long as Honor and Virtue have any being amongst us.

The general disregard of order and decency, which is the growing Evil of our days, has gradually worn out a due sense of all subordination throughout the Kingdom, and exposed the best and most sacred Names to the scorn and insult of the avowed enemies of our happiness. And it were to be wished, that these disorders had not betrayed our countrymen into such outrageous freedoms of behaviour
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and speech, as must soon root out the very foundations of public Liberty, without some speedy change in their Conduct. But it would be a singular happiness indeed, if the heavy dispensation of Providence, we have now felt, should be the occasion of putting us on our guard; and by bringing us to a more lively sense of our danger, open our eyes to all the means that are necessary to our common safety.

The general loss we have sustained should naturally teach us to pay a dutiful and affectionate regard towards H I M who has felt so great a share of it; and make us endeavour to soften and abate the excess of His grief by new efforts of our zeal for His Person and Government. For we cannot promise our selves more happiness, as a People, than that his M A J E S T Y may reap the benefit of his Royal Virtues by a long and peaceable and happy Reign; and that under the protection of a race of Princes descended from Him, the present inestimable blessings of our Country may be enjoyed in their full extent by our latest Posterity.



F I N I S.

